



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Public Safety

One Ashburton Place, Room 1301

Boston, Massachusetts 02108-1618

Phone (617) 727-3200

Fax (617) 727-5732

TTY (617) 727-0019

[*www.mass.gov/dps*](http://www.mass.gov/dps)

Andrea J. Cabral
Secretary

Thomas G. Gatzunis, P.E.
Commissioner

Minutes

**Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters
Department of Public Safety, Bldg B, 1380 Bay St., Taunton, MA 02780
March 27, 2013, 9:30 a.m.**

1. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 10:07 a.m., followed by roll call:

Board Members Present:

Henry Geryk, Chairman
John Viola
Jennifer Revill
Mark Fortune
Michael Torchio

Board Members Not Present:

Pauline Lally
Frank Norton
Leo Fahey
Dan Dumont
William Gallagher
William Young

Guests Present:

Carrie Torrisi, Assistant General Counsel
John Rogers, DPS Chief of Insp. - Mechanical
Doug Neveu, Notch Mechanical
Brian Finn, Business Agent, Local 669
John P. Livingstone, Business Agent, Local 669
Brett LaPlante, PPF Local 51
Pierre Groleau, PPF Local 4
Chuck Borstel, Assc'd Builders & Contractors
Brad Morawski, Applicant
John Daly, Applicant
Laurie Tarbox

2. It was noted that there is not a quorum present at this time, therefore the Bureau cannot vote on any considerations. However, Bureau members present can proceed with review of pertinent matters.
3. The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by members present.
4. The minutes from the last meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, was reviewed by members present.
5. The following applications for licensure were considered by the Bureau:
 - a. Application from Brad Morawski to sit for the Refrigeration Contractor exam was considered, Mr. Morawski was present at this meeting. Mr. Morawski does not currently hold an RT license. A question arose as to the wording of the 10-ton requirement of the scope of the RT license, whether that is a cumulative figure. The Chairman recommended that Mr. Morawski provide documentation

of education/training and employment information so that the Bureau can reconsider his application. Mr. Morawski **No action was taken by the Bureau at this time.**

- b. Application from John Daly to sit for the Refrigeration Contractor's exam was considered, Mr. Daly was present at this meeting. Mr. Daly summarized his work history for the Bureau. The Chairman acknowledged that Mr. Daly's application does not include documentation of hours worked in the industry; the Bureau recommended that Mr. Daly submit additional letters with specific work experience/time so that his application can be reconsidered at the next meeting, emphasizing that documentation must reflect at least 6,000 hours. **No action was taken by the Bureau at this time.**

6. Without a quorum present, the Bureau could not move to Executive Session.

- a. Chief Rogers addressed the Bureau members regarding the Executive Session, explaining that this would be necessary to preserve attorney/client privilege of an internal document being presented to the Bureau for consideration; public audience will be re-allowed once this matter is addressed.

7. Pipefitting Regulation Discussion

- a. Several members of the Bureau expressed their concern with discussion of the regulation without the presence of the other Bureau members. Chief Rogers emphasized the tight time-line to produce a draft regulation being faced by the Bureau, and encouraged the members present to continue the dialogue. Jack Viola recommended that the Bureau start with 31.3, and clarification of process piping. The Chairman pointed out that Bill Gallagher had modified the current draft of 528 CMR, which was distributed to all members, and that this is a good starting point for the Bureau.
- b. The matter of classification of welders was discussed. The Chairman acknowledged that while there are many different welding certifications, the Bureau is obligated to develop state licensing for welders. He further suggested that specific certifications not be prerequisites to sit for an exam for welding, but that there would still be an exam, separate from the current pipefitting exam. Once this basic exam was passed, the licensed welder could perform that work for which he received specific certification. He also pointed out that there are welding questions on the current pipefitter exam, which could easily be separated to establish a separate welding exam. Jack Viola further suggested that there be a differentiation between 'field' welding and 'shop' welding, and between 'certifying' and 'licensing'.
- c. The Chairman discussed how B31.3 and B31.9 should fall within the new regulations, and the clarification of process vs power piping.
- d. Jack Viola brought up grandfathering, and whether an existing master pipefitter would have to apply for the process piping license. Chief Rogers confirmed that a new application would have to be submitted, although it is not clear whether those applications would have to go before the Bureau for approval. The Bureau needs clarification as to how the grandfathering applications would be processed.
- e. The Chairman brought up the matter of the draft application forms. To assist the Bureau with their development of the new application forms, Chief Rogers told the Bureau that he would submit to them for review the application that was used in the grandfathering process for the Sheet Metal Worker license.

8. New Business

- a. Mark Fortune announced to the Bureau that plumbers plan to begin installation of sprinkler systems in 1- and 2-family dwellings as part of a plumbing system. Jack Viola clarified that sprinkler systems are considered to be life-safety systems, and that legislation pends which would require that residential sprinkler systems be 'stand alone' in nature, as opposed to part of a multi-purpose system. Chief Rogers acknowledged that the discussion regarding this matter is ongoing.
- b. Chuck Borstel asked the Bureau that consideration be given in the grandfathering process to business owners who have operated as process pipers in the past; specifically, would the owners be able to be grandfathered straight to a master's license, or would they have to start as a process piping journeyman, since they had previously not needed the master license as they were doing process piping work. And if the latter were to apply, who would be authorized to pull permits.
- c. Doug Neveu addressed the Bureau regarding the differences between welding in a shop situation as opposed to field work, and acknowledged that the Bureau's addressing this difference is in alignment with industry.

9. With no remaining topics on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

**Action items to be addressed at the next meeting are indicated by an asterisk*

The next meeting of the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.